

OrganFax.co.uk Spotlight

# BADEOS... 40 years on and still going strong!

It was in 1973 that a stalwart few decided to get together to share their enthusiasm for the electronic organ. Little did they expect that in 2013 Bolton & District Electronic Organ Society would still be enjoying the pleasures of their enterprising adventure.

At that time organist Dave Smith was the manager of E.D.Browns organs in Bolton and with his help the original group got together and arranged their first meeting at the Naylor's Green in Greenmount. In the early days the home player enthusiasts were desperate to learn, would go anywhere to see an artist perform on the new instruments. They wanted to pick up tips on playing, registrations, to learn as much as possible about the new wondrous sounds emanating from the modern day instruments. The rest as they say is history.

After several different venues over the forty years they settled at the Horwich R.M.I. club in 1997. They have experienced so many successful evenings at this venue. The audience today is much changed from the early days. Today, they still have the dedicated home player enthusiast but there are a large number of members who do not read a note of music. They attend to enjoy superb music provided on our concert evenings with the UK and European artistes making regular visits.

BADEOS have built up a tremendous atmosphere, appreciated by both Artistes and members, so much so that many members now arrive at least an hour before the concert to get their favourite seat and to chat away.



Over the years a lot of different committees have worked hard to ensure this success. Getting local publicity was an absolute priority. They achieved this by placing programmes in Libraries, Local stores, Music shops, also getting the local press to publicise concerts in the 'What's On' guide. Today that policy still exists although some of the aforementioned outlets are no longer available.

Perhaps the most notable exercise was some years ago when they participated in a local Victorian street market arranged by the local council. In addition, they hired part of the Town Hall and organized mini concerts throughout the day culminating with an evening concert held in the Albert Hall (Bolton) with a concert on the Walker Pipe Organ performed by William Davies. A registered raffle helped raise significant funds, which set the club up for their forward booking programme.

Over the years BADEOS have organized Charity concerts and this has allowed them not only to raise funds but also get valuable publicity through the local press.

Another significant development was when they successfully applied for a Lottery Grant to purchase a video system. Due to the position of the stage and the shape of the room they wanted every member to be able to see both keyboards and pedals. The grant allowed them to purchase 2 screens, 2 projectors and 2 cameras. They have a picture in picture set up whereby the picture can be switched from keyboard to pedals. This has undoubtedly been a successful innovation and has created a professional appearance to their presentations.



Needless to say it is a never ending challenge to maintain the high standards they have set. Yes, the club has experienced a down side in membership numbers. Like all clubs they suffer with the age problem but being aware of it they have positive plans to take action.

Another problem being experienced (like so many other clubs) is getting members to take on responsibility for committee positions. They have overcome this to a certain extent by having a group of volunteers who carry out some essential jobs on concert evenings.

Forward plans are to try and attract newer younger (plus early retired) members, who hopefully will come in to ensure the long term future of the club. The BADEOS committee is working hard in distributing 'flyers' in and around the area and they are about to be taking

some advertising space in local directory publications that are distributed to thousands of homes in the Bolton area so hopefully this will encourage more visitors and potential members.

They have recently agreed to change their marketing and promotional plans by introducing a new title specifically for the purpose of promotion and advertising.

Whilst 2013 is a very important year to celebrate BADEOS, they consider the future to have limited potential under that name. They will therefore be introducing the name 'Bolton in Tune' in an aim to attract more potential members by being descriptive in their titling, hence not mentioning the word 'organ' or 'society'. We feel that this name is ideal and could well be adapted by many societies across the country.

To get members involved in their club, a cash competition was held to find a more descriptive name for them to use in advertising and 'Bolton in Tune' was the winner.

The title of BADEOS will be retained for banking and other purposes as this will save a lot of time and problems in changing a lot of documentation but the club looks forward to utilising the new name to their benefit for the future.

They are very positive and looking forward with confidence. They are great believers that out there are still many potential members who still do not know of our wonderful musical world and they aim to get them!

2013 is planned to be a memorable year. The opening concert was provided by Chris Powell, an artiste who has a long association with Bolton and it is fitting that his name should be first on the programme. Then, the anniversary concert will be held on Tuesday April 16th and

Claudia Hirshfeld will be helping them all celebrate with something special to remember. Their November 19<sup>th</sup> concert is designated as a Charity event. This will be the largest charity event they have ever organized and they have chosen 'Hearing Dogs' as their charity to benefit from the evening. Further information will be published when the details are finalised. Elizabeth Harrison will be performing to help the evening become a momentous occasion.

If anyone wishes to join their happy band then please contact George on 01204 651192 or email [badeos@btinternet.com](mailto:badeos@btinternet.com) or just turn up on concert evening which is the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 8pm.

There is a warm welcome waiting – don't delay.

For more information, check them out at [www.organfax.co.uk/clubs/bolton](http://www.organfax.co.uk/clubs/bolton)

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